

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
TIMPANOGOS CAVE NATIONAL PARK, UTAH 84003

DESIGNATIONS, CLOSURES, PERMIT REQUIREMENTS AND OTHER
RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED
UNDER THE DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
TITLE 36, CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 1, SECTION 1.7(b)

Under the provisions of 16 U.S.C., Section 3, and Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, the following Superintendent's Orders (compendium) are established for Timpanogos Cave National Monument. Unless otherwise noted, these orders apply in addition to the regulations contained in Parts 1-7 of Title 36 CFR and will remain in effect until amended.

Approved:



James F. Ireland
Superintendent

MAY 2, 2016
Date

SECTION 1.5 CLOSURES AND PUBLIC USE LIMITS

- (a) Consistent with applicable legislation and Federal administrative policies, the superintendent has established the following rules, designations, conditions and restrictions on the following park activities:

(1) Visiting hours, public use limits, closures:

All park areas south of Utah Highway 92 except the existing paved cave trail; Timpanogos Cave, Middle Cave, and Hansen Cave and their connecting tunnels (hereinafter “the Timpanogos cave system”); and the Monument visitor center complex are closed to public use.

On days when public cave tours **are offered** (generally mid-May – mid-October as determined by the Superintendent), the cave trail above the “1/4 Way Gate” is open from sunrise until the end of the last scheduled cave tour and closed to public use at all other times.

On days when public cave tours **are not offered** (generally mid-October – mid-May as determined by the Superintendent), the cave trail above the “1/4 Way Gate” is closed to public use.

The Superintendent may, when staffing and weather conditions permit, temporarily open the trail above the “1/4 Way Gate” to public use even if no cave tours are scheduled. Any temporary opening of the trail will be advertised on the park website (www.nps.gov/tica) and evidenced by the unlocking of the ¼ Way Gate and removal of trail closure signs at the trailhead.

The cave trail, or any portion thereof, may be closed at any time due to inclement weather, trail repair or maintenance, or other administrative need.

The cave trail is closed to the use of all wheeled vehicles, motorized and non-motorized, including infant or child strollers, wheelchairs, wagons, and any other device capable of carrying a person inside, atop, or astride except by authorized personnel for emergency or administrative purposes.

The Timpanogos cave system and cave trail are closed to persons 16 years of age and under unless accompanied and supervised by an adult, or working as a Timpanogos Cave NM volunteer and working under a parental agreement authorization.

The Timpanogos cave system is closed to all public entry except:

- when accompanied by designated NPS staff on a conducted tour; or
- under a Special Use Permit; or
- when engaged in permitted research or a resource management project.

All residential and maintenance areas, potable water system facilities, and service roads are closed to public use.

All park caves, mines, and tunnels other than the Timpanogos cave system, are closed to all entry and public use at all times except as specifically authorized by the Superintendent for administrative or research purposes.

The Canyon Nature Trail is closed to bicycles.

These closures are in effect for visitor safety and resource protection due to the steep, hazardous terrain, frequent rockfall, and delicate nature of the cave and natural environment in the area.

Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Timpanogos Cave National Monument is prohibited except as approved in writing by the superintendent.

The term “unmanned aircraft” means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g. model airplanes, quadcopters, drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.

This closure is required for the maintenance of public safety, protection of natural resources, and avoidance of conflict with other visitor activities. Unmanned aircraft flown at low altitudes over the heavily used trail in the narrow canyon will create high levels of noise and will distract visitors hiking above steep slopes, increasing the chance of accidents. The slopes within the park are inhabited by both Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep and mountain goats, which are likely to be disturbed and flee from unmanned aircraft, dislodging rocks and further increasing the risk to visitors. Due to the topographic constraints within the narrow, deeply incised canyon, no less restrictive measures will suffice.

(2) Designated areas for specific use or activity or conditions or restrictions on a use or activity

Visitors on cave tours must remain with their group and tour guide at all times.

Clothing or equipment that has been in any other cave or subterranean mine is prohibited within the any park cave unless it has been declared and

decontaminated as prescribed in the current park White-nose syndrome (WNS) policy.

The possession or use of chemical pesticides or herbicides is prohibited within any park cave other than for administrative purposes in accordance with the park Cave Management Plan.

The possession of a backpack, child carrier, purse, or similar bag larger than will completely fit within a box 12 inches x 10 inches x 20 inches, is prohibited with any park cave except by permit or for administrative purposes.

Walking sticks, trekking poles, photographic tripods, monopods, “selfie sticks” (poles designed to hold a camera, tablet compute or cellular phone) and similar implements are prohibited within any park cave unless they can be collapsed or disassembled and are stored completely within a backpack or similar bag at all times within the cave. This prohibition does not apply to canes, crutches, or similar mobility assistance devices required for medical reasons.

Consumption of food, gum, tobacco products, or liquids is prohibited within any park cave, except when required for medical reasons.

The use of lasers, including laser pointers and similar devices, is prohibited within any park cave except by permit or for administrative purposes.

Deliberate touching of any park cave feature or formation is prohibited except where specifically authorized by a park employee as part of an interpretive tour, permitted activity, or for administrative purposes.

Wheelchairs, strollers, shoes with wheels in the sole, and all other wheeled devices are prohibited within any park cave.

These activity restrictions and conditions are required to ensure protection of the fragile and irreplaceable natural resources within the park caves, in accordance with the park Cave Management Plan.

The taking of any fish shall be in compliance with State regulations except that fishing with lead sinkers is prohibited.

This activity restriction is required to ensure protection of the American Fork River and its fishery from unnecessary introduction of lead.

SECTION 1.6(f) COMPILATION OF ACTIVITIES REQUIRING A PERMIT

- Scientific research, including exploration, excavation, or modification of unexplored cave leads or digs, 1.5

- Non-administrative entry to any park cave other than Hansen, Middle, or Timpanogos, 1.5
- Collecting research specimens, 2.5
- Operating a power saw in developed areas, 2.12(a)(2)
- Operating a portable motor or engine in undeveloped areas, 2.12(a)(3)
- Operating a public address system, 2.12(a)(4)
- Air delivery, 2.17(a)(3)
- Noncommercial soliciting, 2.37
- Using, possessing, storing, or transporting explosives, blasting agents, or explosive materials, 2.38(a)
- Using or possessing fireworks and firecrackers, 2.38(b)
- Special events, 2.50(a)
- Demonstrations involving 26 or more people, 2.51
- Sale and distribution of printed matter by groups of 26 or more people, 2.52(a)
- Grazing, 2.60(a)(1), (2)
- Residing on federal lands, 2.61(a)
- Installing a monument or other commemorative installation, 2.62(a)
- Commercial notices or advertisements, 5.1
- Commercial operations, 5.3
- Commercial photography or filming, 5.5
- Commercial vehicle use of park roads, 5.6
- Construction of any building, structure, facility, road, trail, path or way, telephone line, power line or other utility, 5.7

SECTION 2.1 PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL, AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- (b) Walking, hiking, and climbing (including rock and ice climbing) within the Monument south of Utah Highway 92 is restricted to the paved cave trail.

SECTION 2.2 WILDLIFE PROTECTION

- (d) Wildlife lawfully taken outside the monument boundaries may be transported through the monument by vehicle, in direct route on Utah Highway 92.
- (e) Viewing wildlife with any artificial light at night anywhere in the monument is prohibited.

SECTION 2.5 RESEARCH SPECIMENS

- (b) A collection permit is required in advance for collection of any type of research specimen.

SECTION 2.10 CAMPING

All areas of the monument are closed to camping.

SECTION 2.11 PICNICKING

Picnicking is prohibited within the cave system but is otherwise permitted in areas open to public use.

SECTION 2.13 FIRES

- (a) (1) Open fires are only permitted in park provided established grills, grates or fire rings in designated picnic areas.
- (b) Charcoal fires in self-contained grills are permitted. Charcoal must be cooled and disposed of in a garbage receptacle or removed from the park. Wood fires must be extinguished so that all the wood is cool to the touch with no visible embers, coals, or sparks before the fire is left unattended.

SECTION 2.14 SANITATION AND REFUSE

- (b) Disposal of human waste within any park cave is prohibited.

SECTION 2.15 PETS

- (a) (1) Pets are prohibited on the cave trail, within the cave complex, and in park buildings. Certified service animals may be permitted on the cave trail and through the cave.
- (5) Persons possessing a pet are required to collect any excrement deposited by the pet within the Monument and remove it or dispose of it in a manner consistent with state and county regulations.

SECTION 2.16 HORSES AND PACK ANIMALS

- (b) Horses may not be kept, tied, or ridden within the monument.

SECTION 2.18 SNOWMOBILES

- (c) The use of snowmobiles is prohibited within the monument.

SECTION 2.20 SKATING, SKATEBOARDS, AND SIMILAR DEVICES

There are no designated areas within the Monument where the use of roller skates, skateboards, roller skis, roller blades, shoes with retractable wheels, or similar devices is allowed. Use of these devices is prohibited on all Monument roads; within any park cave; on the cave trail; and on the Canyon Nature Trail.

SECTION 2.21 SMOKING

- (a) Smoking is prohibited in the following locations:
- All public buildings in accordance with Utah State Law
 - All government vehicles
 - Along the cave trail during designated periods of extreme fire danger
- (b) Smoking is prohibited within all park caves at all times.

SECTION 2.35 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

- (a) (3)(i) The consumption of alcoholic beverages and the possession of a bottle, can, or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or that has been opened, or whose seal is broken or the contents of which have been partially removed is prohibited in the visitor center, cave system, and on the cave trail.

The superintendent has determined that the consumption of an alcoholic beverage or the possession of an open container of an alcoholic beverage would be inappropriate considering the other uses of these locations and the purpose for which they are maintained and established, particularly the hazardous environment along the paved cave trail and the fragility and irreplaceable nature of cave speleothems.

SECTION 2.50 SPECIAL EVENTS

- (a) Special events require a permit issued by the superintendent and must be applied for in advance.

SECTION 2.51 PUBLIC ASSEMBLY, MEETINGS

- (b) (2) All areas of the park are open to demonstrations except:
- the cave system;
 - the cave trail from the parking lot to the entrance grotto;
 - the interior of the visitor center;
 - the concession sales and seating area;
 - parking lots and roadways; and
 - service and residential areas.